

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-14 are currently pending. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 1, 5, and 10 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,899,614 to Maeda et al. (hereinafter “the ‘614 patent”); Claims 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. EP0945780 to Ando et al. (hereinafter “the ‘780 application”); and Claims 6, 7, 9, and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘614 patent in view of the ‘780 application.¹

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a command data conversion device for use in a printing system, comprising: (1) a command interpreter that receives print command data including commands to be used in print control and associated data, and interprets contents of the print command data; and (2) a processor that receives at least either of the commands and the associated data and executes prescribed processing. Further, amended Claim 1 recites that the command interpreter has command registers that can store multiple commands wherein the command registers are rewritable memories and one of the multiple commands stored in the command register can be replaced with a new command when a code of the one command has changed. Further, Claim 1 recites that when a command included in the print command data matches any of the multiple commands stored in the command registers, the

¹ Applicants confirmed in a discussion with the Examiner on April 19, 2005, that, contrary to the indication in the Office Action, dependent Claim 9 should have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the ‘614 patent and the ‘780 application, rather than under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

command interpreter sends to the processor at least one of either the command or the associated data. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations recited in Claim 2 and to clarify the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.²

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 3-5 are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 2 is rendered moot by the present cancellation of that claim.

The '614 patent is directed to a print control apparatus that analyzes print data received from an external apparatus, generates output data based on the analyzed print data, and controls a print apparatus to print the output data. As shown in Figure 1, the '614 patent discloses a host computer 1 connected to the output units 2 and 3. Moreover, the '614 patent discloses that in order for the host computer to discriminate between the output units 2 and 3, the content of a command table, which is initially identical for each output unit (see Figure 3), is rewritten as shown in Figure 5. Specifically, the first element shown in Figure 5 has been replaced to distinguish output unit 2 from output unit 3. Thus, the '614 patent discloses that the host computer 1 can discriminate between the two output units by sending the appropriate initial command sequence. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '614 patent fails to disclose a command interpreter that stores multiple commands wherein one of the multiple commands stored in the command register can be replaced with a new (print) command when a code of the one command has changed, as recited in amended Claim 1. The '614 patent is silent regarding replacing a command with a new command when the code of the command has changed, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 3-5) patentably define over the '614 patent.

² See, e.g., paragraphs 6 and 66 in the specification.

Claim 10 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1.

Moreover, Claim 10 has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 10 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 6, 7, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully submit that the '780 application fails to remedy the deficiencies of the '614 patent, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 6, 7, and 11-13 are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 1 and 10.

Claim 8 is directed to a command data conversion device for use in a printing system, comprising: (1) a processor that receives multiple image data sets corresponding to multiple inks used in the printing system and performs prescribed processing; (2) a counter that counts a number of the image data sets received by the processor; and (3) ink color data registers that store multiple ink color data indices indicating which of multiple inks is to be used, and into which the multiple ink color data indices may be written at least when the command data conversion device is manufactured. Further, Claim 8 recites that the processor generates data by adding to each of the image data sets a corresponding one of the ink color data indices stored in the registers in accordance with a value of the counter when each of the image data sets is received.

The '780 patent is directed to a printer control circuit interposed between a print driver of a host computer and a printer. The '780 application discloses that the control circuit identifies the types of control circuit commands received and if the command is an RGB data transmission command, full-color RGB raster data of the control circuit command are converted to binary CMYK raster data, which is then stored in the data buffer within a

memory device. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '780 application fails to disclose a counter that counts a number of the image data sets received by the processor, and ink color data registers that store multiple ink color data indices indicating which of multiple inks is to be used, and into which multiple ink color data indices may be written, as recited in Claim 8. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '780 application fails to disclose a processor that generates data by adding to each of the image data sets a corresponding one of the ink color data indices stored in the registers in accordance with the value of the counter, as recited in Claim 8. Moreover, Applicants note that the outstanding Office Action fails to specifically identify in the '780 application the limitations recited in Claim 8, merely implying that all of the limitations recited in Claim 8 are found in columns 6-10 of the '780 application. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 8 as anticipated by the '780 application.

Claim 14 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 8. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 8, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 14 as anticipated by the '780 application.

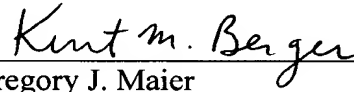
Further, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 9 patentably defines over any proper combination of the '614 patent and the '780 application.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8, 10, and 14 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '614 patent and the '780 application.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as submitted herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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